REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated January 5, 2010. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-17 are pending in the present application. In this Response, Claims 1, 5, and 7-12 are amended. The amendment does not add new matter. In view of the amendment and/or for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action stated that the limitation "said second special location" recited in Claim 1 and the limitation "at least one third user" recited in Claims 7-9 have insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants submit this rejection is rendered moot by the amendments to the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection with respect to Claims 1 and 7-9 be reconsidered and the rejection withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,732,148 to Estrada et al. ("Estrada"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,195 to Hatlelid et al. ("Hatlelid"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,446,112 to Bunney et al. ("Bunney"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,851 to Morris et al. ("Morris"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,281,898 to Nikolovska et al. ("Nikolovska"). The Office Action further cited mIRC Version Notes to support the rejection. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit the cited prior art, even if properly combinable, fail to disclose or suggest, at a minimum, "place the list of spatial locations at a position in said first spatial location" as claimed in Claim 1 and similarly claimed in independent Claims 7-9.

The Office Action relied on Estrada to teach the "list of spatial locations" as previously claimed and stated at page 3, line 17 – page 4, line 2:

> ...where the list of predetermined spatial locations is designated by the first user
> (taught as the creation of rooms and pages col. 5, lines 50-65), placing the list of
> spatial locations stored at a position in a spatial location, wherein the position is

designated by the first user and other users are able to user [sic] the list of predetermined spatial locations (taught as the "place creation" method and database storage of col. 18, lines 14-35, which includes a user creating a room containing pages analogous to the claimed "spatial locations", which are subsequently accessed and navigated by other users in the room. The pages are maintained and displayed in a list, as described at col. 18, lines 56-62).

As understood, the Office Action relies on Estrada's pages to teach the claimed "spatial locations." However, Applicants are uncertain as to what the Office Action relies on to teach the claimed "list of spatial locations." The Office Action seems to rely on Estrada, col. 18, lines 56-62 to teach this limitation, which states:

...forms and fields, (7) decoration model), and (8) graphics server. (1) Shared design elements are shared forms stored in a common template. These elements are provided to deal with the situation where databases are created with duplicate forms and subforms. To avoid having all of many forms would be duplicated with every room, they are...

However, Applicants respectfully disagree that this passage, or any other part of Estrada, teaches "pages are maintained and displayed in a list" as the Office Action stated. Instead, this passage merely teaches that shared design elements in a common template are used to create Estrada's rooms and pages.

For further clarification as to what allegedly teaches the claimed "list of spatial locations," Applicants looked to the Office Action dated February 27, 2009, page 9, which stated "[t]he pages are maintained in a list, 'PageLibrary.ntf, which provides indexing infrastructure' (col. 18, lines 56-62.)." Thus, as best understood, Applicants interpret the Office Action as equating Estrada's "PageLibrary.ntf" template to the claimed "list of spatial locations." If this is incorrect, Applicants respectfully request clarification as to what teaches the claimed "list of spatial locations."

Applicants submit PageLibrary.ntf is not a list of pages. Rather, PageLibrary.ntf is the template used to create a room. Estrada, col. 18, lines 30-31, discloses "[a] room is created from a default room type template, PageLibrary.ntf, which provides indexing infrastructure for maintaining the pages in a room." Thus, a room created using the template PageLibrary.ntf has an indexing infrastructure, i.e. the room can be indexed. But the template PageLibrary.ntf is not an index. Rather a template, such as PageLibrary.ntf "is a file that contains the structure for a database--that is, pages, forms, and views--but does not contain documents. It is a skeleton that

14

contains design elements, but no documents." Estrada, col. 18, lines 7-10. Thus, PageLibrary.ntf does not list pages and fails to teach a "list of spatial locations" as claimed.

Moreover, even if, arguendo, Estrada's room did include an index of pages, Applicants submit the index is not placed "at a position in said first spatial location" as claimed. In other words, Estrada's index of pages would not be placed in one of the pages (the alleged spatial location) that is indexed. Rather, the index of pages, if it exists, would be contained in a container hierarchically above the pages since it is used for maintaining/organizing the pages. For example, the index of pages would be contained in a container such as a database 182 or a folder 183 that include pages, but not contained in the pages themselves. See Estrada, col. 17, line 10 – col. 18, line 11 and Fig. 7.

To further clarify the difference between the claimed subject matter and the prior art, Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, "a list of spatial locations corresponding to the first user, wherein the list of spatial locations lists spatial locations recorded by the first user including the second spatial location." Independent Claims 7-9 have been amended to recite similar limitations. The amendment is fully supported by the specification. For example, see paragraphs [0078] and [0082] of the published specification.

Applicants submit that Estrada's PageLibrary.ntf corresponds to the QuickPlace object model 170 and does not correspond to a user as claimed. See Estrada, col. 18, lines 22-35 and Fig. 7. Moreover, Estrada fails to teach that "the list of spatial locations lists spatial locations *recorded by the first user*" as claimed. (Emphasis added).

This difference is further exemplified by dependent Claims 14-17 which recite, in part, "the list of spatial locations includes at least one spatial location that virtually represents an area owned by a user other than the first user." Even if, arguendo, Estrada disclosed a list of pages in a room created by user, that list would be constrained to the pages within that room and would not include any pages outside of the room created by the user. For example, the template PageLibrary.ntf only provides indexing infrastructure for maintaining the pages in the room created by PageLibrary.ntf.

Applicants submit that Hatlelid, Bunney, Morris, Nikolovska, and the mIRC Version Notes, even if properly combinable, fail to cure the deficiencies of Estrada discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the obviousness rejection with respect to independent Claims 1 and 7-9, and the claims that depend thereon, be reconsidered and the rejection withdrawn.
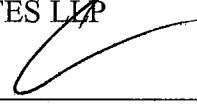
Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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